

Jan. 31, 2022

Alberta RCMP statement regarding Coutts border assembly

Coutts, Alta.—In response to those attending the Coutts border assembly on Hwy 4 since Jan. 29, 2022, and the resulting blockage to the northbound and southbound lanes of traffic at the Coutts border crossing, the Alberta RCMP are issuing the following statement:

The AB RCMP continue to act to preserve the peace and maintain public safety at the Coutts border crossing. Extensive efforts have been taken to engage with all stakeholders in the hopes that a peaceful resolution can be reached. We are working with truck drivers who are attempting to disengage from this event so that they are able to do so; however, current conditions have traffic immobilized.

The AB RCMP will use only the level of intervention necessary to ensure the safety of all citizens and to maintain peace, order, and security. Our goal is to facilitate lawful and peaceful protest. When an event becomes unlawful we utilize a measured approach, which ultimately includes enforcement. This event is unlawful and we have asked those who are involved to clear the area.

The AB RCMP uses necessary measures to protect the fundamental freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, to promote the safety of all citizens, to enforce laws and to maintain peace and order. In turn, it must be recognized that while everyone has a right to peaceful freedom of expression; the general public, local residents and businesses also have the right to a safe environment and freedom of movement.

Alberta RCMP advise that a full blockage of Highway 4 will no longer be permitted. Person's participating in this event can expect increased enforcement of Traffic Safety Act and Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulations on Hwy 4 and area roadways. Pedestrians are also reminded to follow all the rules of the road such as jaywalking and stunting.

Alberta RCMP would like to remind participants of this assembly that it is unlawful to wilfully obstruct, interrupt or interfere with the construction, maintenance, use or operation of any essential infrastructure in a manner that renders the essential infrastructure dangerous, useless, inoperative or ineffective as per the Critical Infrastructure Defence Act of Alberta. A Highway is considered essential infrastructure. Anyone who actively blocks a highway may be subject to arrest and charge under this act. Anyone who aids, counsels, or directs a highway to be blocked may also be subject to charge under this act.

Alberta RCMP would like to advise that the nearest ports of entry that remain unobstructed at this time is Carway/Peigan and Delbonita border crossings.

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Irrelevant